

REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

MEETING

DATE: 10/06/03

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AGENDA SECTION: Letters & Petitions	ORIGINATING DEPT: Mayor's Office	ITEM NO. C-1
ITEM DESCRIPTION: 2003 Transit System of the Year Award		PREPARED BY: Mayor Brede

Mayor Ardell Brede will recognize the Public Works Department – Transit Division and Rochester City Lines as recipients of the 2003 Transit System of the Year Award.

Dual recipients of the Minnesota Public Transit Association's "Transit System of the Year" were awarded to the City of Rochester and Rochester City Lines, Inc. The City of Rochester, along with their partner and third party operator, Rochester City Lines, Inc. has managed ridership growth for seven consecutive years. From 1995 to 2002 ridership for the Rochester Regular Route service "Easy Rider" has increased by 49% (816,143 to 1,214,952). This performance is exceptional given the fiscal constraints and economic uncertainty over the past few years.

Each year this award is presented to the organization that has demonstrated achievement in efficiency and effectiveness – including reports on ridership, cost, safety, maintenance proficiency, agency policy and administration – and achievement of the organization's goals and objectives.

Easy Rider is the public transportation provider in the City of Rochester jurisdiction. Achievements in 2003 included:

- Cost per trip of \$2.21, the lowest rate in Greater Minnesota
- 44.3% revenue to cost ratio
- 49% ridership increase from 1995 to 2002
- Managed ridership growth and maintained operational costs
- Close attention to route structure, target marketing, and day-to-day operational management
- Strong partnership with third party operator, Rochester City Lines, for feeder services within the city limits
- Leadership in establishing park and ride lot partners throughout the city for efficient bus transportation to/from work, school and events

This outstanding example could not have happened without the great partnership that Rochester has with their third-party operator. If two recipients deserve this recognition it is the City of Rochester and Rochester City Lines; true partners in public transit services.

COUNCIL ACTION: Motion by: _____ Second by: _____ to:

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